

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 476

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: PEOPLE'S DAILY EXPOSES "COVER UP" FACTION

REF: PEKING 399

1. SUMMARY. THE FEBRUARY 22 PEOPLE'S DAILY PRINTS A SCATHING ATTACK ON CURRENT POWERHOLDERS SAID TO BELONG TO THE "COVER-UP" FACTION. PSEUDONYMOUS AUTHOR HISIEH TIEN-PIN, EXPLICITLY TYING HIS PIECE TO EARLIER EXPOSES PRI TED IN THE LIBERATION ARMY DAILY, INDICATES THAT MEMBERS OF THE "COVER-UP" FACTION COMBINE THE "SHIFTING" OF THE "WIND" FACTION, THE SLIPPERINESS OF THE "SLIPPING AWAY" FACTION, AND THE "NOISINESS" OF THE "EARTHQUAKE" FACTION. EMPLOYING UNCOMMONLY HARSH LANGUAGE -- AT ONE POINT DECLARING THAT THE "COVER-UP" FACTION'S TACTICS "REALLY MAKE YOU VOMIT" -- HSIEH SPELLS OUT THE VARIOUS METHODS EMPLOYED BY THE GROUP TO AVOID CRITICISM OF ITS PRIOR LINKS WITH AND SUPPORT FOR THE GANG OF FOUR. HE CONCLUDES THAT WHILE "COVER-UP" IS THE APPEARANCE OF THE FACTION'S ACTIVITIES, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE REALITY IS "RESISTANCE." AND RESISTANCE IS POSSIBLE, HE NOTES, ONLY BECAUSE THE FACTION STILL RETAINS POWER AND STILL HAS ITS OWN "GANG" OF SUPPORTERS AND AFFILIATES.

2. PEKING MUNICIPAL FIRST SECRETARY WU TEH IS UNQUESTIONABLY THE PRIME TARGET OF THIS ATTACK. THE WORD "COVER-UP" (WU) IS A HOMONYM FOR WU TEH'S SURNAME; THIS RECALLS ATTACKS

ON WU TEH AT THE JANUARY 1977 TIEN AN MEN SQUARE DEMONSTRATIONS
PLAYING ON ANOTHER HOMONYM TO DECLARE
THAT WU TEH IS REALLY "WU TEH" (WITHOUT VIRTUE).
THE SUBSTANCE OF THE CHARGES ALSO FITS WU LIKE A GLOVE; A CURRENT
POWER-HOLDER, GUILTY OF PAST MISDEEDS, CLAIMING THAT THE GANG OF
FOUR HAD OPPOSED HIM. SUPPORTED BY A FACTIONAL SYSTEM. END SUMMARY.

3. THE FEBRUARY 22 PEOPLE'S DAILY PRINTS ON PAGE THREE A
SCATHING ATTACK ON CURRENT POWERHOLDERS SAID TO BELONG TO THE
"COVER-UP" FACTION. PSEUDONOMYOUS AUTHOR HISEH TIEN-PIN,
EXPLICITLY TYING HIS PIECE TO EARLIER EXPOSES PRINTED IN THE
LIBERATION ARMY DAILY, INDICATES THAT MEMBERS OF THE "COVER-UP"
FACTION COMBINE THE "SHIFTING" OF THE "WIND" FACTION, THE
"SLIPPERINESS" OF THE "SLIPPING AWAY" FACTION, AND THE "NOISINESS"
OF THE "EARTHQUAKE FACTION" PEOPLE'S DAILY APPARENTLY
INITIATED THIS ARTICLE. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT IT WAS
PRINTED PREVIOUSLY OR SIMULTANEOUSLY IN LIBERATION ARMY
DAILY. PEKING RADIO ON FEBRUARY 22 MERELY INDICATED THAT
SUCH AN ARTICLE APPEARED IN PEOPLE'S DAILY; IT BROADCAST
NEITHER THE TEXT NOR A SUMMARY.

4. EMPLOYING UNCOMMONLY HARSH LANGUAGE HSIEH SPELLS OUT THE
VARIOUS METHODS ALLEGEDLY UTILIZED BY THE FACTION TO EVADE
CRITICISM OF ITS PRIOR LINKS WITH AND SUPPORT FOR THE GANG
OF FOUR. THESE METHODS OF SUPPRESSING CRITICISM INCLUDE:
--CLAIMING THAT "WORK REQUIREMENTS" MAKE CRITICISM NOT FEASIBLE;
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--MAINTAINING THAT EVERYONE MAKES MISTAKES;
--POINTING TO PAST CRITICISM AND REBUKES BY THE GANG OF FOUR
AS PROOF OF THEIR CORRECT STANCE (INFLATING "SLANDER" REBUKES
INTO TESTIMONY OF A "THOUSAND CATTIES IN WEIGHT" IN ORDER
TO DEMONSTRATE A "GLORIOUS HISTORY OF STRUGGLE" -- WHICH IS
SUFFICIENT TO "REALLY MAKE YOU VOMIT.";
--SHOUTING THE SLOGAN OF "RAISING HIGH THE BANNER OF CHAIRMAN
MAO" AS A PRETEXT FOR NOT PURSUING THE CAMPAIGN (AGAINST THEM); AND
--ASSERTING THAT ANY PAST MISTAKES WERE MERELY "CONTRADICTIONS
AMONG THE PEOPLE."

5. HSIEH CONCLUDES BITINGLY THAT WHILE "COVER-UP" IS THE
APPEARANCE OF THE FACTION'S ACTIVITIES, "RESISTANCE" IS THE
REALITY. THESE PEOPLE "BOARDED LIN PIAO'S PIRATE SHIP" AND
THEY "CREPT ONTO THE GANG OF FOUR'S FACTIONAL WAGON." THEIR
CURRENT RESISTANCE IS POSSIBLE ONLY BECAUSE THEY STILL RETAIN
POWER, THEY STILL MAINTAIN THEIR OWN SYSTEM OF SUPPORTERS AND
AFFILIATES, AND THEY THEREFORE CONTINUE TO "SUPPRESS THE
MASSES."

6. HSIEH PIOUSLY ASSERTS THAT CRITICISM AND EXPOSURE OF SUCH
PERSONS IS SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF CURING THE ILLNESS

BEFORE IT SPREADS INTO "THE MARROW" AND BECOMES INCURABLE.
IN FACT THE ARTICLE IS A TRANSPARENT PLEA FOR THE PURGE OF
SUCH INDIVIDUALS.

7. PEKING MUNICIPAL PARTY FIRST SECRETARY (AND POLITBURO MEMBER)
WU TEH IS UNQUESTIONABLY THE PRIME TARGET OF THIS ATTACK. THE
WORD "COVER-UP" (WU) IS A HOMONYM FOR WU TEH'S SURNAME AND IS
ALMOST CERTAINLY CHOSEN TO EVOKE KNOWING SMILES ON THE PART OF
READERS. HOMONYMS HAVE BEEN USED PREVIOUSLY TO ASSAULT THE
UNPOPULAR WU; AT THE JANUARY 1977 TIEN AN MEN DEMONSTRATIONS
SEVERAL POSTERS AND SLOGANS EMPLOYED WORD-PLAY TO DECLARE
WU TEH IS REALLY "WU TEH" (WITHOUT VIRTUE). THE SUBSTANCE OF
THE CHARGES IN THIS ARTICLE ALSO FITS WU LIKE A GLOVE.
HE IS CURRENT POWER-HOLDER, HANGING ON TO HIS PARTY AND
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GOVERNMENTAL POSITIONS IN THE FACE OF CONCERTED SNIPING OVER
16 MONTHS BY PRO-TENG FORCES AND THE POPULACE OF PEKING.
IN THE EYES OF HIS OPPOINENTS, HE CLEARLY "DID MANY BAD THINGS"
IN THE PAST (NOTABLY INCLUDING HIS ASSOCIATION WITH THE
GANG OF FOUR DURING AND AFTER THE 1976 TIEN AN MEN INCIDENT).
HE IS NOW SAID TO BE CLAIMING "A GLORIOUS HISTORY OF STRUGGLE"
BY POINTING TO HIS OPPOSITION TO PUBLICATION OF A BOOK
LAUDING CHIANG CHING (PEKING 355).

8. OTHER POSSIBLE TARGETS INCLUDE SNEYANG COMMANDER LI TEH-SHENG
AND PEKING COMMANDER CHEN HSI-LIEN, BOTH OF WHOM HAVE BEEN
ACCUSED IN THE PST OF "BOARDING LIN PAIO'S PIRATE VESSEL."
WOODCOCK

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